

Commemorating the
250th Anniversary

of the town of

Norton, Massachusetts



1711 - 1961



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ORIGINAL CHARTER
Town of Norton
June 12, 1711

Attest. Signed and Sealed

In *Uel*
Tewer, by the
willing the Court



for *Repealing a New*
Grant of the
of Bristol

Whereas the Tract of Land commonly called
and known by the Name of the North Purchase, Lying Situate
within the Town Ship of Sauten in the County of Bristol
(being inclosed within the Line and boundaries prescribed by a
Committee Sometime since appointed by the General
Assembly, as follows) viz. Beginning at the Line between the Two
late Colonies of the Massachusetts and Plymouth in the Line
of the said North Purchase and Woburn, from thence
Running South and to Rethe both North East Corner, and from
thence Eastward on the North purchase Line to Sauten Corner
thence Eastward to the Mouth of the Brook called Bull Brook
and abiding from the Mouth of Bull Brook to the
Bridge over the Mill River near William Withers, and from
thence North Eastward to the North purchase Line, and from
the North purchase Line, the Road that leads from the said
Bridge towards Boston to be the Pointe till it come to the Line
between the Two late Colonies, as aforesaid; which Line to be the
bounds to Woburn aforesaid, the said off from Sauten
by and with the Consent of that Town, and by an Order of
the General Assembly passed at their Session in March 1710.
make a Distinct and Separate Town from Sauten containing
a Sufficient Quantity of Land, and a Competent Number of
Inhabitants for that purpose, and named Norton, the full
perfecting of the said Grant being rejoined and referred to
this present Court.

In pursuance the vote of the afore said Court and
Grant and for the Completing and perfecting of the same

Be it Enacted by his Excellency the Governor Council
and Representatives in General Court assembled and by the
Authority of the same That the afore said Tract of Land formerly
called the North purchase be incorporated and become a part
expressed, be and is granted to be a Town Ship distinct and
separate from Tauton the Town to be named North And
the inhabitants thereof to have like Rights and enjoy all such
privileges and franchises as other Towns in the County of Middlesex
shall have and shall have in all other respects as other Towns in
the said County and from time to time allow him a suffi-
cient support.

Wherefore Nevertheless That the inhabitants in the
said Tract of the said North purchase shall have one half
of the said purchase as their Precinct when they are a
Town to maintain a Minister and this Court Judge thereof

June 12th 1711

This Bill having been Read three several
times in the House of Representatives
passed to be Enacted

The said

Read three several times in Council
Consented and passed to be Enacted.

W^m Addington Esq
By his Excellency

Consent to the Enactings of
this Bill
Pudley

ORIGINAL CHARTER

Town of Norton

June 12, 1711

In the tenth year of the reign of Queen Anne

An Act for Raysing a New Town by the Name of Norton within the
County of Bristol

Whereas the tract of land commonly called and known by the name of the North Purchase, lying situated within the Township of Taunton in the County of Bristol, circumscribed within the lines and boundaries prescribed by a committee sometimes since appointed by the General Assembly as follows: beginning at the line between the two late colonies of the Massachusetts and Plymouth in the line of the said North Purchase and Attleboro, from thence, running southward to Rehoboth North East Corner, and from thence Eastward on the North Purchase line to Taunton bounds, thence Eastward to the Mouth of the Brooke called Burt's Brooke and extending from the mouth of Burt's Brooke to the Bridge over the Mill river near William Witherel's and from thence Northeastward to the North Purchase line, and from the North Purchase line the road that leads from the said bridge towards Boston, to be the bounds till it comes to the line between the two state colonies, aforesaid; which line to be bounds to Attleboro aforesaid. Was set off from Taunton by and with the consent of that Town and by an order of the General Assembly, passed as their session in March, 1710. Made a District and separate town from Taunton, containing a sufficient quantity of land and a competent number of inhabitants for that purpose and named Norton. The full perfecting of the said grant being referred to the present Court.

In pursuance therefore of the afore stated order and grant and for the compleating and perfecting of the same, be it enacted by his Excellency, the Governor's Council and Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same that the aforesaid tract of land commonly called the North Purchase, circumscribed and bounded, as above expressed. Be and is granted to be a Township District and separate from Taunton. The Town to be named Norton. And the inhabitants directed to have like exercise and enjoy all like immunities, powers, privileges as other towns within this Province now have by law, such exercise and enjoy, so that said inhabitants settle an able, learned, ordained minister in the said town and from time to time allow him a comfortable support.

Provided nevertheless that the inhabitants in the East End of the said North Purchase shall have one-half of the said purchase as their Precinct, when they are able to maintain a minister and this court judge them so.
June 11, 1711

This bill having been read these several times in the House of Representatives, passed to be enacted (John Burrill, Speaker)

Read three several times in Council, concurred and passed to be enacted (H. Addington, Secretary)

By His Excellency:

I Consent to the enacting of this Bill (J. Dudley)

THE STORY OF OUR TOWN

THE early settlers of Norton came from Taunton and tales of these pioneers designated one William Wetherell as the first resident on present day Norton land. He came through the woods to the eastern shore of Lake Winnecunnett and built his house there. This was 1669 and Norton was still a part of Taunton. Others followed his example, especially after 1695 when the Leonard family set up an iron forge at Stony Brook, now Chartley. Bog iron was plentiful and it provided the first source of employment for our town. Another "first" at this time was the first frame house in Norton built by Judge Leonard at Chartley corner.



As the number of families increased, so did the desire among them to form their own town and not be a part of Taunton. Miles of muddy wilderness paths separated these people from their church in Taunton proper and they stressed this inconvenience in a petition to the court. They asked for a minister, a church, and the right to become a precinct. Verbal battles ensued for the general court thought it better for our forefathers to form their own township and support themselves rather than remain a precinct. The outcome was a new town, Norton, incorporated on June 12, 1711, named for the town of Norton in England which bore a relative position to Taunton, England.

The next step for the new town was to obtain a minister and one who would stay for he would be the teacher as well as the preacher. Finally, after a few years of indecision, in 1714, Joseph Avery arrived and was ordained as the "pastor of the First Church of Christ in Norton." He was paid 45 pounds of sterling per year and provided with a parsonage.



Meanwhile, industry was growing in Norton. Around 1710 saw mills were started followed by a grist mill and a cotton mill, both in Barrowsville. In 1802 a straw hat factory was started which was significant because it provided employment for women for over 50 years. Also during the early nineteenth century a copper works was opened on Taunton Avenue. The superintendent's house is still occupied although the copper works is no longer in existence. From 1858-1880 a friction match factory operated in Chartley while 1870 and 1871 saw the opening of a wool combing mill on Elm Street and the first jewelry shop in Chartley. How industry has progressed since the twentieth century will be shown later in our book as some of Norton's leading industries tell their own story.



One must not forget to mention the part played in the American Revolution by our town. After the "shot heard 'round the world" was fired, two companies of militia left Norton for Concord and Lexington to fight for independence. There were at one time three companies, one of artillery and two of infantry and of these about 300 men served in the Revolutionary War. There is an interesting story connected with the war in which Norton plays a significant part—A Middleboro woman, Deborah Sampson, volunteered to serve in the war and was dressed as a man. In 1778 after a stay in Norton she wrote a letter to a friend describing her feelings about her dangerous undertaking and also describing the town of Norton. Here are some excerpts:

"On leaving Mr. Lincoln's I took the Bay Road to the southeastern part of Norton, Winnecunnet as it is called . . . At the home of Mr. James Wetherly I spent the night. Mr. Wetherly is the greatgrandson of William Wetherly, the first white settler in Norton. This old Mr. Wetherly, years ago, kept a kind of ordinary house for the accommodation of such persons as might journey between Taunton and Boston.

From Winnecunnet I made my way to the central part of the town . . . Norton is an active, orderly little town . . . The Sabbath I spent quietly and decently with Dr. Tiffany who lives near the meeting house in the old parsonage. A fine large house though now somewhat out of repair. Nearby are the remains of a deer park in which its former owner, Rev. Avery, took great delight.

The house devoted to the public worship of God is a goodly building with a bellcony over the door and the whole surrounded by a row of stately elms.

The people of Norton must, I judge, be well to do. Among the gentry in the pews I saw not a few velvets and silks, while among the common people . . . even calicoes and broadcloths. For all the hard times, silver cannot be very scarce here, one gentleman whom I saw had melted nine silver dollars into his knee buckles.

This letter I shall leave here in Norton at the House of Mr. Samuel Lane where the poast rider will call on his next visit to the town.

I remain your true soldier friend,

ROBERT SHIRTLIFFE or DEBORAH SAMPSON

This was a brief sketch of how our town became a town and what happened to us in the early years of our incorporation. After 250 years we are still "active" and "orderly", though not so "little".

Churches

Homes

Schools



Bell in present Unitarian Church made by Paul Revere & Son in 1810.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL PARISH (UNITARIAN)



THE establishment of the first Christian Church in Norton was a prerequisite to the granting of a town charter. This church was erected in 1710 on the town Common, where a stone designates its site. In 1714 the Congregational Society was organized officially.

The Reverend Joseph Avery served 34 years as the first pastor. The house built for Rev. Avery stands at its original location, diagonally opposite the present church, and its picture appears on the town seal.

In 1810 a bell was purchased from Paul Revere and Son, and the same bell is in the present church, the third building, erected in 1835.

Although many renovations have taken place in and around the present structure, from the time of chain fences, carriage stalls, and uncarpeted floors to the present status, the building remains as a fine example of colonial architecture.

The Ladies' Alliance and the Men's Club of the Church have been contributing factors to its growth. The Alliance was responsible for acquiring the present parsonage in 1913 and wiped out its debt in eight years.

In spite of wars, political upheavals, and internal dissension, this Church has survived for two and one-half centuries in our community.

Rev. James Z. Hanner is the present pastor.

TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



IN 1832 a group of 22 people enrolled as charter members of the Trinitarian Congregational Church. The first meeting-house was built in 1834, and Rev. Spencer Beard, the first pastor, remained with his parish until 1835.

“Land, dwelling-house and other buildings standing thereon” were left for a parsonage by the will of Hon. Laban Wheaton in 1865. In 1882 Mrs. Eliza Wheaton had the entire church rebuilt at her own expense and furnished a clock for the tower.

One of the early organizations of the Church, the “Ladies’ Circle”, became in 1917 the Ratcliffe Guild, named in honor of Rev. C. A. Ratcliffe, a pastor for 17 years. This Guild has been responsible for many improvements and renovations, and in later years the Whatsoever Club, the Paul Hallett Club, the Men’s Club, and the Youth Groups have all contributed to the growth of the Church.

In 1917 when Wheaton College for the first time acquired its own chapel, the customary large congregation was diminished. However, with a succession of good pastors, the aid of many dedicated individuals and the efforts of the various church groups, the challenge has been met. In 1961 Rev. Stanley J. Dahlman is the pastor of a constantly growing parish.

CHARTLEY METHODIST CHURCH



METHODISM in the town of Norton dates from 1790 when it was included in the Warren Circuit with headquarters at the home of Joseph Newcomb.

A group of Reformed Methodists organized a Wesleyan Methodist Church in Barrowsville in 1850. This church was located just east of the railroad tracks on South Worcester Street.

In 1873 the pastor of the Attleboro Methodist Episcopal Church, with members of his congregation, organized the Chartley Methodist Episcopal Society. Meetings were held in private homes in Chartley which was then known as Lane's Station.

The Chartley Methodist Episcopal Chapel was erected in 1875 and dedicated in 1876. After serving the community for a quarter of a century the chapel was raised, a wing was added, and a graceful bell tower was built.

During the intervening years, the chapel, the present sanctuary, has become the nucleus of a church which has a fine dining and recreation room, a Sunday School room, four classrooms, a pastor's study, and a chapel.

The Church has had many outstanding pastors who have preached and labored unselfishly for the Church and exerted their Christian influence on the community.

Rev. Levy C. Robinson is the present pastor.

Note: The name Episcopal has been dropped from the Chartley Methodist Church.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH



AT first, Mass for the Catholic people of Norton was celebrated at the old mill in Barrowsville, the George Arnold mill, and in private homes. In 1865 a small wooden chapel was built at the corner of Taunton Avenue and Barrows Street. At this time, St. Mary's was still a mission church of St. Paul's Church in Taunton.

Finally, in 1923, land was purchased at the corner of Power and Worcester Streets for a church and a farm house across the street was converted into a rectory. By the next year the first services were held in the new church with the Reverend John McNamara as pastor. St. Mary's was a parish of its own.

Today with the Reverend William Thomson as administrator and the Reverend Bernard Sullivan as curate the church serves some 2600 parishioners. There are four active organizations, the Catholic Youth Organization, the Catholic Women's Club, the Holy Name Society and the Ladies' Altar Society. At present a modern parish center is being erected on West Main Street that will provide facilities for classroom instruction, entertainment, and indoor athletic training. This may be the site of a new church and convent in the years to come.

THE REV. PITT CLARKE HOUSE



IN October 1792, Pitt Clarke, having graduated two years before from Harvard College, came to Norton on probation to preach at the Congregational Church. After preaching in Norton that winter, the church voted him in as their pastor. After two years he bought himself twenty acres of uncleared land a quarter of a mile from the meeting house. That same day, September 6, 1796, thirty-four parishioners appeared to help clear the land and from then on he received great assistance in clearing, plowing, drawing stone, laying walls, and digging the well. In December, "A number of hands cut down a greater part of ye timber for my house and brought it to a place for building." The house was built during 1797 though not completed that year. On February 1, 1798, Mr. Clarke married and the house became a parsonage noted for its hospitality. Eight fireplaces kept the house warm and two brick ovens were used for the baking. There was a smoke room for curing meat and a set boiler for washing. These latter can still be seen and all the fireplaces can be used today.

Pitt Clarke in his forty-two years as pastor also farmed his land and tutored young Harvard students. After his death, in 1875, the house passed through the hands of two families and then for more than ninety years belonged to Nathaniel Freeman and his family. For many of these years prize oxen were kept on the place.

In 1950 the house was restored and renovated for modern living still keeping as many of the old features as possible. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Phillips.

THIS OLD HOUSE



CLARK'S History of Norton, published in 1859, records that Thomas Braman, Sen., "is supposed to have lived at the place now occupied by Allen D. Lane" presumably between his marriage, 1685-6, and his death, 1709. In 1840 Allen D. Lane married Rebecca Braman. After her death Allen married Lucy Pidge and they had two daughters, the well-known maiden ladies, Abbie and Ella, who lived in this place for nearly ninety years prior to the purchase by the Nivens in 1941.

The house is of vertical plank construction with wide floorboards, sturdy hand-hewn beams and original doors with old latches. Five of the six fireplaces, one with a Dutch oven, are now in use, built around a bricked-in space converging into a central chimney.

At the time of purchase there was no central heating, no plumbing and water was hand pumped. Great care has been taken to restore and preserve the charm of this landmark—a typical early New England farmhouse. During the Anniversary Celebration it is interesting to believe that this old house was the proud home of one of Norton's first settlers over 250 years ago.

It is now the residence of Henry A. and Gladys C. Niven, 67 Dean Street in the Barrowsville section of Norton, Massachusetts, known as GOOSE BROOK FARM.

THE NEWCOMB HOME FOR OLD LADIES OF NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS



THE Corporation known as The Newcomb Home for Old Ladies was constituted on February 26, 1923 for the purpose of furnishing a comfortable home for aged women, as directed in the will of Harriot A. Newcomb of Norton. The lovely colonial-styled home is located on Newland Street.

Miss Newcomb's will stated in part:

1. That no admission fee shall ever be charged.
2. That applicants possessing property may be required to give same to the Home, and it may also receive and hold donations and bequests from any source.
3. That certain relatives and descendants shall always have advantage of admission.
4. That admission be open to female Protestant residents of American parentage of the town of Norton.

The first Corporation members were: Mr. and Mrs. Edgar M. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Newcomb, Miss Mabel H. Perry, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Walter C.S. Wood.

Because a constantly growing deficit is being brought about by the strict adherence to the above conditions and limitations, the Trustees have petitioned the Probate Court to have certain of these terms changed in order to extend broader services of the Home to the entire community. Although first preference will be given to those persons who qualify under the terms of the will, it is the desire of the Corporation to be allowed to accept applicants who are not necessarily the children of parents born in the United States, and who need not be residents of Norton, but may be residents of its surroundings without regard to race or religion. It is also the wishes of the petitioners to be able to accept elderly couples. In so doing, the name would be changed to "Newcomb Home".

The present Corporation members are: Judge Philip Athanas, Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Cressey, Mr. and Mrs. George B. Flint, Mr. and Mrs. R. Burton Forbes, Mrs. Charles H. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar M. Holmes, Mr. Henry W. Robbins, Mr. John B. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Staples, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Thomas II, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Zwicker.

THE WHEATON HOMESTEAD



THIS lovely homestead was built around 1829 by Laban Morey Wheaton, son of Judge Laban Wheaton. He built it for his bride, Eliza Baylies Chapin and she lived there for seventy-six years. From the time of her death to this day it has been the home of the presidents of Wheaton College.

THE STORY OF NORTON'S SCHOOLS



District 4 School, Barrowsville. Built in 1853.

WHEN our forefathers founded the town of Norton in 1711, their first concern was the establishment of a church. No money was left to build school houses. In 1719, however, a school master was hired. He taught for three months of each year in each of four sections of town. Classes were held in private homes, a carpenter shop, or other convenient places. At first only boys attended these classes. Education was not considered needful for girls. There were few books. Teaching was mostly oral. For instance, a boy would be given a sum about which he was to sit and think until he got the answer. This might take several days.

About 1791 a female teacher was hired so girls must have been offered education at that time. This teacher's salary was three shillings a week. She was boarded with Jonathan Hunt, who charged her three shillings a week! We hope she had some private income. Men teachers fared a little better. The records show that Jeremiah Basset was paid 30 pounds a year, " $\frac{1}{3}$ in money and $\frac{2}{3}$ other pay." Another teacher was promised "20 pounds a year and his 'dyett'." For these sums an old history tells us, a man was required to teach his pupils "to Reed, Right and Cifer".

During the Revolution schooling was suspended, but one week after peace was declared, it was resumed. There seem to be more children at this time as more teachers were now hired. The great need was for school houses, but town meeting after town meeting failed to appropriate money for them.

In 1792 Silas Cobb with twelve other citizens called a meeting

by petition to discuss schools. The citizens met, chose a "tyding" man, and adjourned.

In 1795 it was voted "to build several houses at town expense, and find firewood for them", but in a few weeks another meeting dissolved those plans.

It was not long before the General Court brought pressure to bear. The need was great for school houses in Massachusetts and so were the difficulties in obtaining them. An old poem says:

"Learning was a rugged boy
A hundred years ago
With six week's schooling in a year
What could an urchin do"?

Things eventually moved more rapidly and we find eight school houses in eight different districts of Norton. Deacon Arthur E. Sweet attended No. 5, and has interesting tales to tell. He says that old No. 5 is now the Center Fire Station. Miss Winifred Austin attended No. 7, which was taught by her mother. Mr. Charles Bruce was also a pupil at this school.

In 1826 we find that a central school committee began sending reports to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. These old reports show the real concern of the men interested in education. They worried over truancy among the older boys. One asks, "except by school attendance, how can we save portions of our society from barbarisms"? They were concerned about ventilation in the school rooms, and about a ready supply of pure drinking water. Too long vacations seemed to them unwise. They worried because teachers, hired by the term, rarely stayed more than two terms. They greatly rejoiced over a teacher who stayed two years. They said of him, "He had no liking for bad manners. He was a man of kind spirit, and a lover of children".

In 1853, \$1100 was spent on "the finest school yet". The old poem declares:

"The school house now a palace is,
Our scholars Kings and Queens.
They master Algebra and Greek
Before they reach their Teens".

In 1890 the Sturdy Grammar School in Chartley was built and presented to the town by William A. Sturdy. At one time when Norton had no high school, pupils at the Sturdy School were taught subjects on a 9th and 10th grade level and were able to successfully transfer to the high schools in the neighboring area.

In 1892 a movement to consolidate and grade the schools arose. It met opposition because the old school houses had become dear to many people and because it was feared that the closing of a school would cause property values to drop in that district. Progress won out and soon three instead of eight schools were the fact. One was located in Barrowsville, one in Chartley, and the third in the center of town.

In 1894 we shared a school superintendent with Wrentham. We still had no high school. The town sent increasing numbers of

children to neighboring towns, paying their tuition. Parents had to bear the expense of transportation. This brought hardship and many promising children could not afford a higher education.

By 1904 our own High School was established. The first class of six pupils was graduated in 1906. The Barrowsville School was built in 1907 and took over the area served by the old No. 4 school.

Many of the old Town Reports speak of the fine help given to the schools by the Public Library. As early as 1895, 40% of our teachers were Normal School graduates. They also say it was difficult to hold these good teachers when other towns offered better salaries.

The 1899 Report tells of the organization of the Chicatawbut Club, an association of teachers and parents.

Young people reading this report may be interested to hear that the first "No School" signal sounded in 1903.

The 1960 Report notes that the Norton School Budget accounts for the major part of our tax bill. The question asked down through the years repeats itself, "Is there any way to have just as good schools at less cost"? With the very special need to train well for the complex world of our time, the answer seems to be, "No".

We have a fine High School and two excellent Elementary Schools. Anyone entering these buildings during school hours is aware of worthwhile activity. Even beyond school hours we might find groups busy with voluntary extra work. The programs are rich and varied. The records of our graduates in college and business are noteworthy.



Norton High School

On ten Thursday nights during the winter the school offers an interesting program of adult education, which is greatly enjoyed by many.

A statement quoted from the Town Report for 1889 is timely, "We are of the opinion that the money expended on our schools makes better returns than that expended in other ways".

We have told the story of only our Public Schools. Norton is educationally interesting, because we have private institutions of worth, as well.

Wheaton College lies in the center of town. Wheaton offers help to local girls seeking higher education. Its library is open to the town. Its Community Calendar invites us to interesting lectures and lovely music.

House in the Pines, celebrating its 50th year is a residence school for girls who come from all over our own land and from many foreign countries.

Hamilton Country Day School, which is in the former Barrowsville School, does interesting work with boys and girls from Grade 3 through Grade 12.

The Country School on Clapp Street has classes for children of Nursery school and kindergarten age.

The Wheaton Nursery School has classes for a limited number of children and is a practice school for Wheaton students.

Two day nurseries, the Tiny Tots Nursery on Washington Street and the Norton Day Nursery on Pleasant Street give all day care to little children.

School-wise, Norton is a good place to live.



L. G. Nourse Elementary School

WHEATON COLLEGE



Cole Memorial Chapel

For a brief story of Wheaton we should know that for many years the school was known as "Wheaton Female Seminary". The Seminary was founded in 1835, as a living memorial to a beloved

daughter of Judge Laban Wheaton, an honored citizen of Norton. It was a pioneer venture. Higher education for young women was just beginning. By the turn of the century the school was known as Wheaton Seminary. It offered excellent preparation for college, and for those who so desired, two years of advanced courses, comparable to our Junior College work today.

For many years Mrs. Eliza Wheaton lived in what is now the president's house. Her lovely spirit was felt all through the school. The teaching staff, from the earliest days, was strong and helpful. Many of the Seminary graduates owe the success of their own lives to contacts they had with those teachers.

In 1912 Wheaton began to grow into a college. The college was declared successful as such by 1922. Since then its growth has been phenomenal. Wheaton's presidents have been men of stature and skill. Dr. Samuel Cole, Dr. J. Edgar Park, and Dr. A. Howard Meneely have served her well. Norton is proud of Wheaton College, and Wheaton College serves the Norton community with great generosity.



Chase Dining Room

HOUSE IN THE PINES



HOUSE IN THE PINES was founded in 1911. Its success is due to the generous devotion to the education of girls as shown by its founder, Miss Gertrude E. Cornish (now Mrs. Joseph K. Milliken).

The student body comprises some one hundred sixty boarding pupils, who come from all over the United States and from many foreign countries.

The curriculum covers the work of grades seven through twelve. College preparatory and general courses are offered. There are strong departments of music, art, and household arts. At one period of its history the school offered two years of study beyond the high school. For those who wished, part of the second year might be spent studying in Europe. World War II sadly brought this interesting experiment to an end.

School buildings include the main house, six smaller dormitories, a class-room building, gymnasium, art studio, farm-house and stables with an indoor riding ring. A new school building is under construction.

The grounds are equipped with tennis and badminton courts, outdoor riding ring, soft-ball diamond, hockey fields, and a skating rink.

Life at House in the Pines is busy, friendly, and homelike.

Town Affairs



PRESENT SELECTMEN

Joseph E. Yelle; John B. Scott, Chairman; Clarence P. Rich.

HISTORY OF THE NORTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Norton Town Offices

IN the early days of the town, Deputies and Sheriffs were the law enforcement officers. In 1757 we have record of Benjamin Williams being Deputy Sheriff. From 1784 to 1882 there were several Sheriffs and Deputies.

In 1882 D. K. Carpenter and Benjamin H. Richmond were constables. In 1883 Frank A. Clapp was appointed constable and he held this office until 1944. He also held the office of Deputy Sheriff from 1896 to 1901.

Benjamin B. Scanlon was the first Chief of Police in the town. He was chief for 35 years and constable for 40 years. He was also a Special Police Officer and Deputy Sheriff in 1916 and 1949. He retired June 30, 1949.

Carlton H. Draper was acting Deputy from July 1, 1949 to September 15, 1949.

Edward D. Bartley was appointed Chief of Police on September 16, 1949 and continues to hold that appointment. Our present Police force consists of three permanent men, the chief, a lieutenant, and a sergeant. There are also over thirty Special Officers and eight Constables.

HISTORY OF THE NORTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



Station No. 1

IN 1894 a group of public spirited citizens met and established a fire district. Three years later at a town meeting, the sum of \$600.00 was appropriated to build and equip a fire house on a parcel of land in Chartley, offered by William Sturdy. Lyman J. Franklin, with the help of some of this group, erected a building on Worcester Street and equipped it with a hand-drawn hose cart with 500 feet of hose, spanner wrenches, lanterns, shovels, etc. This building is still intact and in use to store supplies for the alarm system.

In 1898 this group organized a fire company under the name of The Norton Volunteer Fire Department and elected Lyman J. Franklin, Fire Chief; Ernest Hall, Assistant Fire Chief; Frank A. Clapp, Captain; Frank Burgess, Lieutenant, and W.C.S. Wood, Treasurer.

On March 10, 1916, the Norton Firemen's Relief Association was organized. The original membership totaled 31. To raise money for this association, band concerts were held at Norton Center and Winnecunnet Lake. Clam bakes were held off and on from 1919 to the present time. Field Days were held in 1955 and 1956. In 1955 a re-organization of this group took place and the Association was incorporated on October 30, 1957, as the Norton Firefighters' Relief Association, Inc.

In 1921 Frank H. Smith became the second fire chief and served in that capacity through 1924. He was succeeded by Oliver E. White in 1925.

In 1927 Fire Station No. 2 was located on Main Street near the car barn at Norton Center.

In 1930 the town took over the Norton Volunteer Fire Department and assumed all responsibilities. The town appointed a board of nine fire engineers to operate the fire department and the name was changed to the Norton Fire Company. Harold Wetherell was named chief.

In 1934, because of manpower shortage, it was voted to have only one company. Company No. 1 under the direction of Chief Wetherell worked out from the Chartley Station.

In 1942 the officers were: Harold Wetherell, Chief; Oliver E. White, Assistant Chief; Frank Crowe, Captain; Harry Hewins, Clerk. Because of World War II and the shortage of men, these officers took care of both the Fire Department and the Relief Association through 1952.

In 1944 the Norton Grove Association offered to build a fire station, install a siren for an alarm, and heat and care for the building if the town would furnish a fire truck. In 1947 a Ford V-8 truck was built into a combination and pumper and was installed at the Norton Grove Station which is now Station No. 3.

In 1947 a plot of land on Bay Road with a building was bought to be used as a fire station in the Winnecunnet section of town and in 1948 Winnecunnet Station, now No. 4, was finished.

In 1949 the Defiance Manufacturing Company in Barrowsville offered to build a two-door brick fire station on the corner of Barrows and South Worcester Streets and give it to the town. This station became No. 5.

In 1950 an ambulance was given to the town by John Farrell and the Lions Club. This was placed under the care of the fire chief.

In 1952 the town appropriated \$10,000.00 to install a fire alarm system. This was made necessary because of the Telephone Company's changing over to dial system.

In 1955 a plot of land on South Worcester Street, almost across from Station No. 1, was given to the town by Harold Wetherell on which to build a new fire station to replace No. 1 which was too small to house the modern equipment. In 1956 the new Chartley Fire Station was put into use and remained No. 1.

In 1958 a number of the firemen of Company No. 3 raised money on their own and bought a 1946 Ford V-8 Walkin Truck and made it into a Rescue Truck and gave it to the town. A Rescue Squad was named by the Board, with Howard Ferguson, Captain; Carl Spavold, Lieutenant; John MacCaffrie, Lieutenant; along with Squad Members John Pierce, Sr., John Pierce, Jr., Robert Johnson, John Eller, Raymond Millette, Richard Linoks, Carl Gallivan, Philip Colpas and Steven MacCaffrie.

In 1960 Robert Eddleston was added as a permanent fireman.

Our Fire Department has all types of equipment to insure the safety of our lives and our homes.

Town of Norton

Proposed Program for

250th Anniversary Three Day Celebration

1711 - 1961

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

10:00 A.M.—Official Opening of Exercises at a High School Assembly, giving the young folks the honor of start-the celebration, with one adult assistance.

2:00 P.M.—Field Day. Contests and sports for the young.

8:00 P.M.—Anniversary Ball at High School.

King and Queen of the Ball, with a Court of Honor, to be chosen previously from Senior High School Contestants.

(September 22 Ball for the Young People).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

10:00 A.M.—A.A.U. Sponsored Marathon.

1:30 P.M.—Parade.

Themes: Historical, Industrial, Education, Progress.
Announcement of Winners of year-long Beard Growing Contest.

5:30 P.M.—Suppers at various Churches, Grange, Community Hall, etc.

8:00 P.M.—Band Concert—High School.
Guest soloists, Community Singing.
(In High School, in case of rain)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

11:00 A.M.—Special Church Services.

1:30 P.M.—Formal Civic and historical exercises. Guest Speaker. Recognition of dignitaries and oldest town residents, Presentation of Museum plans and fund.
Edgar Rose *Rose*
Edgar Rose Snow, speaker; Senator Parker, Mayors from surrounding towns, 3—1 Act Plays by College, House-in-the-Pines and Local.

Admission every day to library, Churches and Town Hall to view Historical Exhibits and products of local industry.

Town of Norton

250th Anniversary General Committee

1711 - 1961

General Chairman
Edward Schissler

PARADE

Herbert Church, Chairman
Winifred Simmons, Frank Montesanti, Albert Watson, John K. MacCaffrie,
George Reilly, Mason Johnson, John Gonsalves, Anthony Ruskey, Everett
Dupuis.

PUBLICITY

Joan Fuller, Chairman
Pearl Alston, Harry Burbank, John Canavan, Ann Johnson, Margaret Osgood,
Roland DesRochers, Casper Darling.

ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Jeanne Sabourin, Chairman
Pearl Alston, Clara Coyle, Lucille Zwicker, Drusilla Foster, Mr. and Mrs. John
Quebman, John Drane, Ruth Hanner, Charles Bruce.

PROGRAM

Amelia Reilly, Chairman
Joseph Yelle, Mackarness Goode, William Mahoney, Florence Dunlop, Roberta
Eller.

BAND CONCERT

Lester Gray, Chairman
Bennett Sharples, Karl Jenkins, Lawrence Beaupre, Angeline Zupanick, Irving
Fillmore.

HISTORIC EXHIBITS

Eleanor Thomas, Chairman
Amelia Reilly, James Blount, Esther Spencer, Francis Gallagher, Ann Guevre-
mont, Carolyn Clewes, A. Stanley Dallman.

POLICE PROTECTION AND TRANSPORTATION

Edward Bartley, Chairman
Elizabeth Johndroe

GUEST SPEAKER

Drusilla Foster, Chairman
Mackarness Goode, Edward Schissler

ANNIVERSARY BALL

Leonard Silvia, Chairman
James Blount, Winifred Simmons, George Andrews, Harry Burbank, Adelaide
Quebman, Henri Yelle, Roberta Eller, Philip Beaudoin, Alec Rich, Carol Gal-
lagher, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Haller, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Porter, Steven Mac-
Caffrie, Carol D'Angelo, Sandra Underwood.

DECORATIONS

Clarence Rich, Chairman
Dorothy Small, Amelia Reilly

SPORTS PROGRAM

J. Robert Ford, Chairman
Andrew Bennett, Armand Santoro, Lloyd Gay, Charles Haller

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joseph Yelle, Amelia Reilly, Esther Shipley, James Hanner, Harry Burbank,
Mackarness Goode, Anthony Pires, William Mahoney, Winifred Simmons.

OUR ANNIVERSARY YEAR

TO celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Norton, monthly events were planned. Some were money-making and the profits went toward a fund for a lasting memento as a climax of our anniversary year. The following are some of the events:

February 11—The official opening of the Brothers of the Brush Contest, held until September 30th. Howard Baker and Fred Cooper were in charge. A donation of 99c entitled a man to membership in the association, the badge and excluded him from any fines levied on non-members whether he grew a beard or not.

February 22—With Harry Burbank in charge, the anniversary "cake" on the common was lit. Short exercises were held including a proclamation read by Charles O. Bruce, town crier for the anniversary.

April—A poster contest for school children was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

April 29—The Norton Reforestration Committee held exercises at the Town Forest on Plain Street for the purpose of changing the name of the Norton Town Forest to the Gertrude Cornish Forest in honor of Gertrude Millikin now of Dighton. She was a member of the Reforestration Committee for many years and was responsible for the excellent forest we have today. The Boy Scouts conducted a tour through the forest and the school children were given the honor of planting 250 trees for this occasion. Lawrence Reinhard, tree warden, was chairman of the event.

May 27, 28, 29—The Lion's Club Carnival was held on the school grounds with Anthony Pires and Joseph Yelle in charge.

June 18—The Norton Rangers 4-H Youth Horse Show was held at the Crane Farm. There was a special costume class "1711" in observance of the Town's anniversary.

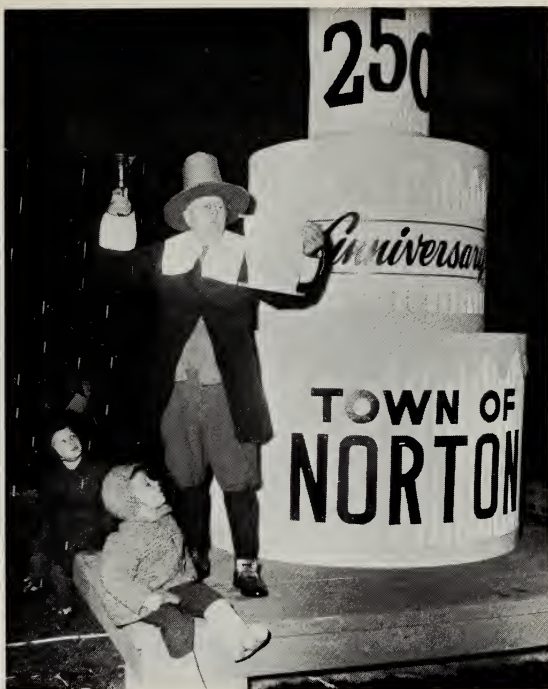
Churches and other organizations have also joined in helping to build the fund. Here are some of the events to come.

August 13—A Firemen's Muster with parade, outdoor exercises, and a chicken barbecue.

September 16—Ten homes will be open for inspection with tea to be served at the Wheaton Inn. The tour will also include some of Norton's newest homes.

September 22—The Anniversary Ball for the young people.

CHARLES OTIS BRUCE



CHARLES Otis Bruce, our genial Town Crier for our Anniversary Celebration, was born in Norton. He was born February 7, 1885 to Charles S. Bruce and Samantha K. Sweet of No. Washington Street.

Mr. Bruce attended No. 5 School, Sturdy School, and Mansfield High School. After High School he went to work as a carpenter to learn a trade.

In 1907 he built his present home on East Main Street and on August 11, 1908 he married Ethel G. Seaver of Mansfield. The Bruces have a son Arnold, who lives in Rhode Island. The Bruces were married by the Reverend Edward D. Vowrs, pastor of the Baptist Church, Lincoln St., Winneconnet.

Mr. Bruce became Assistant Station Agent on Oct. 2, 1903 and in 1908 he was made Agent. He served over 45 years at the East Norton Railroad Station as Agent and as East Norton Postmaster from 1926-1943. He was a Selectman in the 1920's and Master of the Norton Grange No. 218. He is a past Master of St. James Lodge F. & A. M. of Mansfield, Mass. and has received his 50 year pin.

Mr. Bruce operates a small greenhouse at his home and his hobbies are chair caning and bowling.

NORTON POST OFFICE



ABOUT the year 1798 a post office serving Easton, Norton and Mansfield was located in Easton on Bay Road. Nineteen years later Norton's first Post Office was established in the home of the first Postmaster, Earl P. White. This house at 32 Pine Street is presently owned by Alfred G. Grund.

Laban M. Wheaton became Postmaster from 1818-1845. The Post Office was first maintained in his law office, then moved to the Public House, and later to the Village Store.

When Earle Hodges was appointed Postmaster in 1845 he moved the Office to his home, and it remained there with Mrs. Hodges as Postmaster after the death of her husband. In 1892 the office was moved back to the Village General Store when Leon J. Adams became Postmaster. It remained there until 1957.

At one time there were five post offices within the limits of Norton. The three remaining today are located at the Center, Chartley, and Barrowsville.

The present Norton Post Office was built by Wheaton College in 1957 at the invitation of the U. S. Post Office Department who lease it from the College on a 10 year basis.

The present and 13th Postmaster, Joseph E. Yelle, was appointed in 1951.

NORTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



AS early as 1794 there were citizens in Norton interested in maintaining a library. The present library, however, had as its origin the Norton Magazine Club. This Magazine Club obtained a charter for a Public Library in 1886 and found a home for the 400 volumes in its possession when Mrs. Eliza B. Wheaton donated the land and money for the building. The Norton Public Library was dedicated and given to the town in 1888.

The Board of Directors determines the policy of the Library and appoints the librarians. The Selectmen are directors, ex-officio. Funds come from annual town appropriations and from income on the library's small endowment.

The exterior of the building has remained unchanged since 1887. The increasing number of volumes made necessary the addition of bookstacks and the modernization of old ones. In 1959 the town appropriated money for this purpose. Fluorescent lighting was installed and the rooms were redecorated.

In 1960 the Library contained about 10,000 volumes and had a yearly circulation of 13,491 books and magazines.

The dedicated librarians, the many directors and volunteers, and the newly formed Friends of the Library have aided in its growth throughout the years.

The present librarian is Mr. Henri Yelle.

FOURSCORE

AND MORE

GEORGE E. SMITH



THIS is George E. Smith who has been identified with town affairs for a lifetime. He has been on the School Committee, Postmaster, Town Clerk, Town Collector, Town Treasurer (these last three for a quarter of a century), Clerk of Finance Committee, Clerk of Water Commissioners. He is a charter member of Norton Grange P. of H. and was first Master and second Lecturer. Was clerk of the church with which he is affiliated for 60 years. Was born in Norton, April 27, 1868. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all Nortonians.

He retired from active duty at 80 years. Drove his auto (a 1936 Ford Coupe with a record of 100,000 miles) for a final drive at 90 and reluctantly sold it. Takes a keen interest in local and world affairs and was always an avid reader. Activities are now naturally limited. Says regarding his home town, "It's a wonderful town with wonderful people. It must be and have been to have borne with me and my idiosyncrasies for 93 years. I am profoundly grateful to them all". Incidentally, his paternal ancestry goes back in an unbroken line to John Alden and Priscilla Mullins of the Mayflower.

Mr. Smith writes:

"I was born on the Goodwin Farm, so-called, in the eastern part of Norton. I inherited it from my father and adopted farm life, building up what was thought in those days, a fairly large poultry plant.

"In 1904 I sold the farm, bought 14 acres of land in the center of town, built a home and started life anew.

"My first new job was Postmaster. It was the one I really liked, but it was short-lived. It was a Fourth Class Office and a political plum, and I was on the wrong side. I got out just in time and suffered no financial loss. The other offices came to me unsolicited. I enjoyed them all. All in all, as I have said, it's been a kindly, tolerant public and the many pleasant episodes more than balance some others that at the time appeared unavoidable".

JAMES B. WETHERELL



JAMES B. WETHERELL, son of Frank F. and Nancy (Wilbur) Wetherell, was born on Howard Street in Norton on July 8, 1873. He was engaged in the jewelry manufacturing business for years as a partner in Freeman Daugherty & Co. In 1912 he entered the automobile business in Taunton and after several years left to devote full time to manufacturing soap under the name, Taunton Textile Products Co.

Mr. Wetherell served on the Parade Committee for the Bi-Centennial Celebration in 1911. For nine years (1930-1939) he was on the Town Finance Committee and has been a member of the Board of Fire Engineers since its inception in 1930 (31 years). He has a son, Harold L. Wetherell, who has been Chief of the Norton Fire Department since June 1930 and a daughter, Mildred E. Wetherell, a teacher in the Norton Public Schools since 1921.

ARTHUR E. SWEET

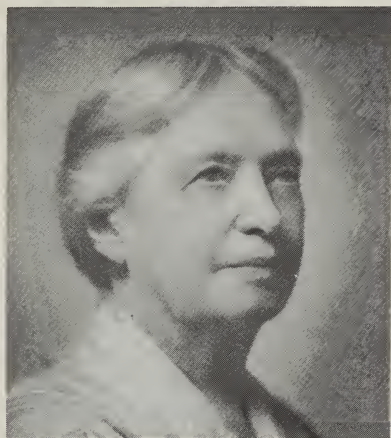
ARTHUR E. SWEET was born on South Washington Street, Norton, June 2, 1872. His family had been in Norton for at least two generations. In 1825 his grandfather had bought the large farm on Essex Street where Mr. Sweet now lives.

Mr. Sweet attended the district schools of Norton and was a pupil at District No. 5 School. He was probably the first Norton boy to attend High School. To get this education he travelled to Mansfield. Sometimes he used a horse; sometimes he walked. He graduated with the Class of 1889.

He married Lizzie B. Draper and they had three children. For a while they lived on Howard Street in the house now occupied by the Walter Shipleys. With his father Mr. Sweet operated a steam saw-mill which could be set up wherever work was to be done.

For many years Mr. Sweet was Treasurer of the Congregational Church, Superintendent of its Sunday School, and is still a Deacon of the Church. This year a celebration was held in his honor. Many of his family were present when a newly decorated part of the church was named for him, "Deacon Sweet Hall".

MISS WINIFRED AUSTIN



MISS WINIFRED AUSTIN was born on South Washington Street, Norton, September 25, 1866. Her mother was one of the most respected teachers in the Norton schools and is lovingly remembered whenever these early days are recalled.

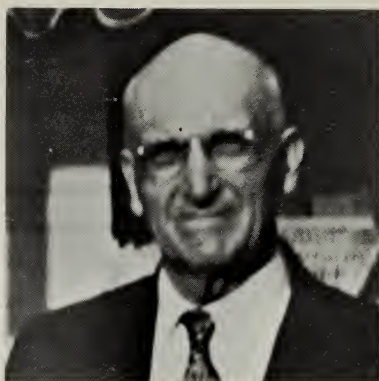
Miss Austin herself attended District School No. 7 in Norton and High School in Pittsburgh, Pa., and Taunton. She graduated from Bridgewater Normal School and received further education at Brown University and the University of Pennsylvania. Here she worked for her Doctorate but refused to complete her thesis because currently accepted efforts seemed to her unworthy of the honor bestowed.

She taught at Castine Normal School in Maine, Fairbanks Hall in Missouri, and Lyman School for Boys, a correctional institution. For fifty years she taught Science and Bible and served as Treasurer at Ogontz School for Girls in Pennsylvania.

Her travels began in 1910 when her mother took her to Europe. Since then she has visited Europe, Asia, Africa, China, Japan, India, both coasts of South America and Mexico.

Miss Austin now lives on East Main Street in Norton. She keeps busy with her memories, her interesting and worthwhile souvenirs, and prepares unique calendars each year for her friends. These calendars are filled with thought-provoking questions, and finding the answers, I am told, is an education for any who try!

CARLETON A. WOODWARD



CARLETON A. WOODWARD was born in Norton on March 24, 1872. He was the son of Louella (Lincoln) and Albert A. Woodward. He married Elizabeth McCaffery, and has three daughters and one son.

He attended the Norton schools and Bristol County Academy in Taunton.

For many years he operated the F. B. Rogers Silver Co. on Winthrop Street in Taunton. After selling this business, he began the C. A. Woodward Pewter business from which he retired in 1956.

Although he has always been interested in all town activities, he never held town office. He is a member of the Order of Odd Fellows in Taunton.

EDGAR MASON HOLMES

EDGAR MASON HOLMES of Burt Street was born to Calista Susan Washburn Holmes of Wallington, N. Y. and John Mason Holmes on February 26, 1874 in the family home on Burt Street.

Mr. Holmes attended No. 6 School in Norton and Bryant Stratton Business School in Boston. He worked 6 years as a fireman on the N. Y. N. H. & Hartford Railroad.

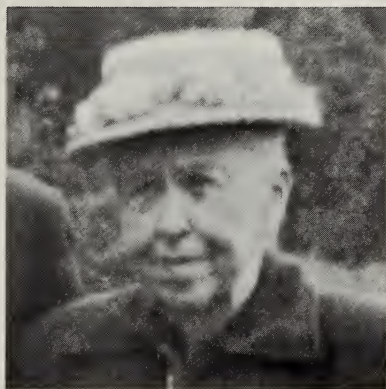
Mr. Holmes was married in 1894 and his daughter, Marion, Mrs. Alfred White, lives in Taunton.

In 1901 Mr. Holmes and his brothers went into the cucumber raising business and built their greenhouse in the rear of the family home. They continued in this business until 1926 and in 1927 Mr. Holmes established his own insurance business. He retired from this business only a few years ago.

Mr. Holmes has been a member of the Brotherhood of Fireman and Locomotive Engineers for over 60 years. He has been a member of King David Lodge, F. & A. M. of Taunton since 1904. He has served the Town of Norton as Selectman, Welfare Board Member, and as a member of the Finance Board. He was the first President of the Board of Trustees of the Newcomb Home and continues to be a Director. He has also been a Director of Norton Savings and Loan.

He was married to Helen May Benham of Jay, N. Y. in 1910, and is a member of the Chartley Methodist Church.

MRS. HOWARD A. FOSTER



JESSIE LELAND HUNT FOSTER was born August 10, 1880 to Alvira Lincoln Hunt and Frank Day Hunt. She attended No. 7 School until 1893 when it was closed. Her teacher was Mrs. Adelaide E. Austin, who had also taught Frank Hunt, her father. Norton did not have a high school at this time, so Mrs. Foster entered Wheaton Female Seminary at the age of 13 years. She graduated from Wheaton in 1899.

Mrs. Foster was married to Howard A. Foster on November 23, 1904 by the Reverend Ratcliffe of the Congregational Church of Norton. She has three children, Alton and Raymond, who reside in Norton, and Mrs. Ruth Elva Thornley, who lives in Taunton.

The house that Mrs. Foster lives in was built by Adolphus Hunt, her grandfather, in 1836. The ell and porch were added in 1874. Three generations have been born in this house, Frank Hunt, Mrs. Foster, and her three children.

Mrs. Foster's great-great-grandfather, Samuel Hunt, was a Corporal in the Civil War and is buried in the Norton Center Cemetery.

Mrs. Foster is a member of the Parish of the Unitarian Church and an Honorary member of the Alliance.

CRANE FAMILY



CAPT. JOHN CRANE came to Norton to settle and build his home in 1765. Capt. Terry Crane, one of his six children, became the father of John Crane. Hon. John Crane served as a Senator and was Norton Town Clerk and Treasurer for 30 years. Another grandson of the original settler, George B. Crane, was a member of the Norton School Committee, a Selectman and Assessor for 10 years, Justice of the Peace, member of the Legislature in 1856. George B. Crane's granddaughter, Mrs. Esther Spencer, a resident of Norton and a very faithful worker in her church for many years, is the daughter of his son, George Terry Crane and C. Amelia Woodward. Another daughter of George T. Crane, was Martha Crane who married Joseph Crowshaw. They became the parents of Amelia, wife of George Reilly and now Director of Welfare in Norton. They have three children: Martha, Francis, and Gene and live in the original Crane homestead.

ARTHUR T. STURDY

ARTHUR T. STURDY of Union Road, Chartley was born on November 28, 1875 at the Sturdy home on Maple Street, to Rachael Jane Pierce Sturdy and William A. Sturdy. His mother had attended Wheaton Female Seminary and his father was a Civil War Veteran, who fought and was wounded at the battle of Bull Run.

In 1890 Mr. Sturdy married Sarah Cole of Watertown and they had four children: Mrs. Ruth Raymond of Wellesley, Arthur, Jr. of Warwick, R. I., Mrs. Naomi Rand of Needham, and Phillip of Canton.

Mr. Sturdy's father, William, introduced the jewelry business to Norton. About 1900 Mr. Sturdy and two of his brothers, Harry and Louis, formed the Sturdy Bros., and in 1913 they merged with W. A. Sturdy Manufacturing Co. to be known as Sturdy Bros. Mfg. Co.

Mr. Sturdy has served on the School Board, the Finance Committee, and was one of the original founders of the Norton District Nursing Association, Inc. His father was one of a group of three who organized the Norton Savings and Loan, and Mr. Sturdy has been a director for over 50 years and is now president of that organization.

He is a member of Ezekiel Bates Lodge, F. & A. M., a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of other Masonic bodies.

Mr. Sturdy attended District No. 2 School, Attleboro schools, and Attleboro High School.

In 1949 Mr. Sturdy married Edith A. Rounds of Rehoboth. He is a member of the Chartley Methodist Church.

LOUIS A. STURDY

LOUIS A. STURDY was born April 4, 1878 in the house which he now occupies on Maple Street, Chartley. His father was William A. Sturdy and his mother, Rachael Jane Pierce Sturdy of West Brookfield, Mass.

Mr. Sturdy attended District No. 2 School at Valentine's Corner. He also attended schools in Attleboro and the Sturdy School in Chartley. He went to Bryant and Stratton Business School, Providence, R. I.

About 1900 he and his brothers, Harry and Arthur, formed the Sturdy Bros., and in 1913 they merged with their father's jewelry company and became known as Sturdy Bros. Mfg. Co.

HENRY I. SHAW

HENRY I. SHAW was born October 18, 1875 to Ellen Sullivan of Ireland, and George B. Shaw of Oak Street, Norton.

He attended the No. 2 School at Valentine's Corner and was graduated from there.

After he finished school, he went into business with his brothers and was part owner of Shaw Brothers Grocery Store at 3 Bank Street, Attleboro, Mass. Later he worked in several jewelry shops in Attleboro and Providence. While working in Providence, he married Ida Lincoln Woodward of Norton. When he returned to Norton, he went to work at Bay State Tap and Die Co. in Mansfield and then to Cards Mfg. Co. where he worked for over 20 years.

Mr. Shaw is a member of the Unitarian Church; he has served on the Parish Committee, and is a charter member of the Men's Club. He belonged to the Board of Trade in Norton and was also a member of the Town Finance Committee. He is a past member of the Fish and Game Association of Mansfield. His hobbies are hunting and fishing. He married Alice Clarke of Taunton in 1939 and they reside in their new home at 185 East Main Street.

JAMES FREEMAN and MISS FLORENCE FREEMAN



JAMES FREEMAN was born November 4, 1877 on Oak Street, Norton to Martha Caroline Allen and Henry S. Freeman.

He and his sister, Florence, who was born February 13, 1875 and has lived in Norton since she was two months old, attended District No. 2 School at Valentine's Corner. James Freeman later

went to District No. 1 School (now Grange Hall), the Sturdy School and Bristol Academy in Taunton. Miss Freeman attended Wheaton Female Seminary.

On October 4, 1911 Mr. Freeman and Edith H. Tweedy were married. They have three daughters, Martha (Mrs. Newton Blakeslee), Mary (Mrs. George Gutekunst), and Lilian (Mrs. Chester Hollins). All three girls were graduated from Wheaton College.

Mr. Freeman was for many years a sales representative for Richardson & Boynton, Wholesale Plumbing & Heating Supplies. He has served at various times as President, Treasurer and as a Director of Norton Savings & Loan for more than 57 consecutive years. He was a member of the School Committee for 7 years and has received his 50 year pin from the Charles H. Titus Masonic Lodge in Taunton.

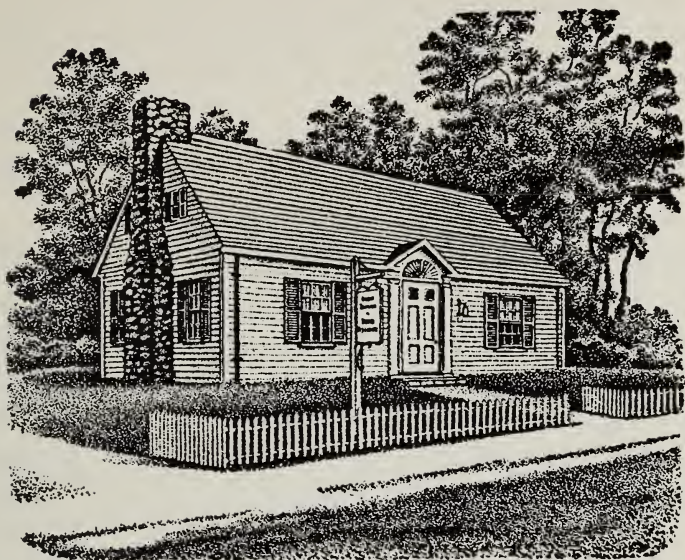
Miss Freeman was Assistant to her father, Postmaster Henry S. Freeman, at the Barrowsville Post Office from 1897 until 1915. She and her brother have been members of the Chartley Methodist Church for many years. Miss Freeman was a member of the Ladies' Aid and other societies from their very beginning to the present day. She has worked in all the departments of the Church School, especially in teaching and secretarial work.

The Freemans now live on South Worcester Street in Chartley.

Note: We of the 250th Anniversary Book Committee thought it would be interesting to hear the story of some of the Norton citizens who were born in our town, have lived here for 80 years or more, and still live in Norton during the year of our celebration.

**Industry
and
Business
in
Norton**

NORTON SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION



FOR over two centuries following its founding, Norton was a farming community. The inhabitants were interested in their homes, churches, and schools and because of their great interest in homes, the Norton Savings and Loan was founded, the first purely financial institution in town.

Four leading businessmen, Austin Messinger, Andrew H. Sweet, George H. Talbot and William A. Sturdy, believed the townspeople should be given the opportunity to buy or build their own homes. With other interested citizens, these men met at the store of Mr. C. Bowen Wetherell in Chartley on January 20, 1890 to formulate plans for such an organization. The following officers were elected: Austin Messinger, President; William A. Sturdy, Vice-President; C. Bowen Wetherell, Secretary-Treasurer. At the end of three years the assets totaled \$10,053.91 with a surplus of \$334.15.

The Association has continued to grow under able leadership. Through the keen interest of Mr. George B. Clements, an officer from 1919-1942, the lovely Cape Cod building was built, which is occupied today by the Association. The assets now total \$1,272,597.78 with a surplus of \$105,443.44.

In January the Association celebrated its 71st Anniversary. It has helped many people in the Town of Norton to own their own homes and to save money through the purchase of shares in the Association.

J. R. KILBURN GLASS CO., INC,

THE J. R. KILBURN GLASS CO., INC., Chartley, Massachusetts, was organized by Jerome Kilburn in 1897. Today it is owned by the Estate of James R. Gifford and managed by Leonard Watterson. This company employs 45 people and manufactures glass parts for the industrial and electronic field.



GLASS-TO-METALS INCORPORATED

GLASS-TO-METALS INCORPORATED, Chartley, Massachusetts, was established in 1956 by Leonard Watterson and James R. Gifford. It is now owned by Leonard Watterson and the Estate of James R. Gifford. They employ 145 people and they make hermetic seals for the electronic industry. J. R. Kilburn Glass Co., Inc. and Glass-To-Metals Incorporated are happy to be part of the 250th Anniversary of Norton.

SINCLAIR MANUFACTURING CO.

"PRECISION MANUFACTURING" describes the ingenuity that goes into the small parts of many types which John Sinclair has been producing since he founded this company in 1946.

With a battery of automatic screw machines, presses, and ability for tool design in this specialized field, the electronics and electrical industries are dependent on Sinclair for parts made from stainless steel, brass, bronze, aluminum alloys, tellurium copper, nickel silver, as well as synthetics, such as Nylon, Teflon, Lucite and others.

A very recently developed operation is glass to metal sealing, another process which requires the skills of precision workers, twenty-five in number.

Therm-O-Stats, Inc., is another and more recently founded company in the group of modern industries which have located in and renovated the basically sound Sturdy Buildings at Chartley Corner, where the jewelry industry was begun in Norton in 1872.

This company has for its officers Marshall B. Martin, Walter J. Wilhelm, John C. Sinclair, Arthur M. Freeman, and Lewis Rubin. This budding company produces temperature control devices, products which find their way into every home and into every plant and into many pieces of transportation equipment



SWEET PAPER BOX COMPANY, INC.

ESTABLISHED originally as the paper box division of the A. H. Sweet Box Company, Sweet Paper Box Co. was purchased by George H. Fuller, Frank E. Nelson and Louis J. L'Amoureux in 1918. It was located on West Main Street just across from the present Sprague and Reynolds box factory.

In 1925 a fire at this location made it necessary to move the company to Chartley Corner where for years it has made set-up paper boxes and displays for many industries under the capable guidance of George H. Fuller. Its President is now his son, Irving J. Fuller; Treasurer, George H. Fuller, and Clerk, Mrs. Thelma Winters.

DEFIANCE BLEACHERY



THE largest manufacturing company in Norton, Defiance Bleachery under the management and control of John F. and William H. Bannon, was established in the Barrowsville section during the depression year of 1936. In this year, the Bannon brothers and Joseph B. Warne of New York bought the plant and equipment and began revamping it to finish special fabrics. There ensued twenty-five years of continued improvements and expansion.

Defiance has been a pioneer in the chemical conversion of fibers and fabrics. In a specially designed pilot plant, its researchers have developed such well known trade-marked finishes as "Chem-sette", "Zurette" and "Ice Permanent". They are now at work on a process to give both expensive and lower priced fabrics the feel and appearance of linen.

Outstanding in the whole processing industry is the fact that grounds, approaches, and building exteriors present the appearance of meticulous order and cleanliness.

Its present location in a country setting, its long history in a small town, its good employee relations, and satisfactory association with the trade stand as a forecast for survival and growth.

T. J. HOLMES CO., INC,



THE T. J. HOLMES CO., INC., which is located on State Route 123 in Chartley, was founded in 1870 by Thomas J. Holmes. In 1929, the company occupied the buildings of the old Freeman-Daughaday Company. It has continued to operate at the same location since 1929. However, a number of additional buildings have been constructed which have doubled the floor area of the then existing plant.

The T. J. Holmes Co., Inc. manufactures and sells a wide variety of atomizers and sprayers. Well-known Holmspray Perfume and Medicinal Atomizers are sold throughout the United States and are also exported to various countries in the free world. In addition, plastic sprayers and dispensers are manufactured and sold by a subsidiary corporation, the Arnold-Copeland Corp. Approximately 75 people are employed in this area.

The T. J. Holmes Co., Inc. is happy to be a member of this community and congratulates the Town of Norton on its 250th anniversary.

FERNANDES SUPER MARKETS, INC.

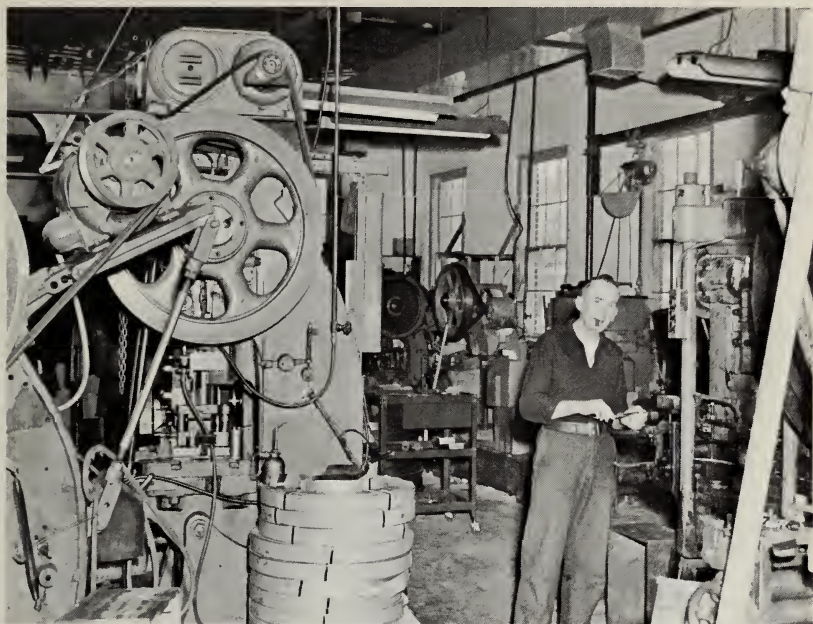


FERNANDES was established by the Fernandes family in 1937 as a small grocery and meat market at West Main Street, across the street from the present Fernandes Super Market. During the early years Jose and Rose operated the small store with the help of their son, Joseph E. Fernandes, and their three daughters, Bea, Mary, and Evangeline. In 1947, the first Fernandes Super Market was built at the present site, and the active management of the company was assumed by son, Joe. Since that time, the store has been enlarged on three different occasions to the present 34,000 square feet.

The second Fernandes Super Market was opened in North Easton in 1950, and since that time, the number has grown to eight. In 1953 came East Bridgewater . . . in 1956, Randolph . . . in 1958, Plainville . . . in 1960, Brockton East . . . in the same year, New Bedford . . . and in 1961, Walpole.

In addition to the eight super markets, the Fernandes Realty Corporation has also developed three shopping centers . . . the twenty-two-store Brockton East Shopping Plaza . . . the eight-store Randolph Shoppers Plaza, and the eight-store Walpole Plaza. Presently under construction are new super markets in Attleboro and Medway, Massachusetts.

VALENTINE TOOL AND STAMPING, INC.



IT will be revealing to the citizens of Norton to find evidence of the skills and talents hidden behind the walls of small plants in their own town.

Valentine Tool and Stamping, Inc., with Charles C. Valentine as President and Edward Hemmingsen as Treasurer, both with a spirit of pioneering progress in "close tolerance" manufacturing, was founded in 1947. It was then a small tool shop.

The real basis of the metal stamping business is tool design and tool, jig and fixture making, and so in 1953 Valentine's expanded into metal stamping work.

In 1954, need for larger plant facilities sparked a move to their present location at 171 West Main Street, near the "Box Shop Curve".

Electronics has become a synonym for New England and the talents for small component work are inherent in the Valentine's organization. We find them making transistor bases (those miniature parts which take the place of radio tubes) and a variety of components for industrial instruments, such as gear train supports, switch housings, and unusual springs, clips, and washers for electronic components.

Among Valentine's many operations are blanking, bending, extruding, drawing, coining, piercing, riveting, drilling, assembling, and counter boring.

SPRAGUE & REYNOLDS COMPANY



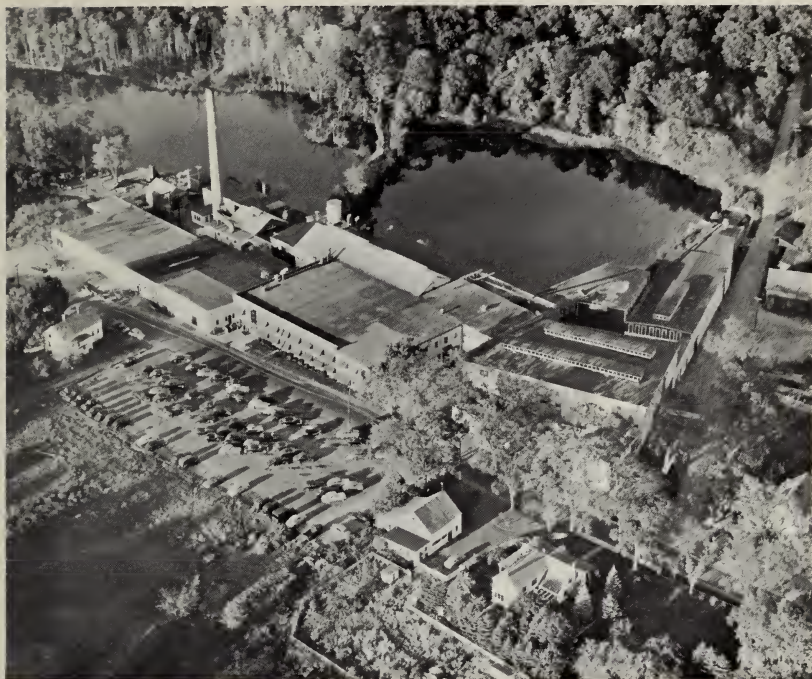
IN 1928 the Sprague & Reynolds Company purchased the wooden box business of the A. H. Sweet Company in Norton located at the Box Shop Curve on West Main Street.

The Sprague & Reynolds Company specializes in wooden and plywood boxes of all varieties. The chief material used is soft pine and the by-products, shavings and fine and coarse sawdust, are used by nearby dairy and poultry farmers.

The present officers are: Howard H. Hill, President; Eleanor S. Reynolds, Treasurer, and Eugene St. James, Clerk. At the present time, there are about thirty employees.

The Sprague & Reynolds Company extends its congratulations to the Town of Norton as it celebrates its 250th anniversary.

DRAPER BROTHERS COMPANY



THE Yarn Division of Draper Brothers Company, which is located on Elm Street in Norton, Massachusetts, was established in 1958, and presently employs one hundred and fifty people.

Draper Brothers Company is nationally known for the quality manufacture of the following textile products:

1. Papermaker felts for the paper industry.
2. Knitted linings for the boot and glove trade.
3. Yarns for various consumer products, primarily sweaters.

Under the leadership of Henry Knight, plant manager and member of the board of directors, raw materials, varying from fine furs to wools to the newest in synthetic fibres, are purchased from all over the world. These raw materials are then converted on modern yarn manufacturing equipment to supply yarn to manufacturers from Massachusetts to California.

Draper Brothers Company is pleased to be asked to share in Norton's 250th Anniversary Celebration, and hopes through your support of the American sweater industry that we may always be a part of this fine community.

YOUNGER INDUSTRIES

TO complete the story of industry in Norton, we should recognize some of the younger companies, which contribute to the well-being of the town.

The J. B. Sabourin Company, designers and builders of special machinery and tools and manufacturers of graphite products, was established in 1930 by John B. Sabourin. It is located at 160 Taunton Avenue and has six employees under the direction of partners Paul H. and George E. Sabourin.

Norton Foundry, Inc. was established in 1954 at 135 East Hodges Street to manufacture brass and aluminum castings and patterns of wood, epoxy and metals for the electronics industry and plumbing supply houses. It has 15 employees under the direction of President Raymond E. Harvey and Treasurer Dominick A. Gonsalves.

Reliable Electroplating, Inc., came to Norton in 1954 to do gold, silver, and nickel production plating at 304 West Main Street in the Chartley section. With 13 employees it operates under the direction of John H. Broadbent, its President and Treasurer, and John H. Broadbent, Jr., Assistant Treasurer.

S. and D. Plating Company was founded in 1938 as D. and D. Plating Company by George Desormeaux and his father. With his partner, Charles S. Summersall, and 3 employees, they do general electroplating and refinishing of religious articles. This company is located on South Worcester Street in the Chartley section.

Samsons, Inc., manufacturers of ladies' gold-filled watchbands at 12 South Worcester Street in Chartley, was established in 1959. Its President is Edward Bergevine and the Treasurer is John Lepper. Personnel numbers 15.

COVER DESIGN BY DAVID L. GUNNER

The elm tree and its flower suggest the growth of Norton much as the mighty oak from the little acorn grew. The two figures and the seal are tied together by a outline of the township of Norton.

